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USDA CAN HELP YOU INVOLVE YOUTH IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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CLARENCE A. BROWN
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FOREWORD

Young people represent the future of our communities. Therefore, every effort should be made to have them participate in community planning and development. Young people can prepare for broader responsibilities in community decision-making by cooperating with fellow citizens in establishing goals for community development and carrying out community programs. In turn, the community that harnesses the unique abilities and enthusiasms of youth will become a better place in which to live.

In order to encourage youth involvement in community development, the Department has prepared Guidelines for youth representation on state and local community development committees. These Guidelines suggest ways in which young people can be recruited for membership on such committees and also suggest some of the responsibilities young people might assume.

This booklet outlines assistance the U.S. Department of Agriculture can provide to leaders and members of youth organizations who want to participate in community action, planning and development. For additional information please contact the nearest representative of the appropriate agency within this Department.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Earl L. Butz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "B".

EARL L. BUTZ

To determine what assistance agencies of the U. S. Department of Agriculture can offer to help you involve youth in community development, see these pages. . . .

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Located in 47 of the 50 United States and some foreign countries, ARS scientists work with youth in many ways. Such contacts stimulate an exchange of ideas between youth and adults, permitting involved youth to bring about community improvement.

Kinds of Help

—Provides scientific and tech-

nical information and assistance to youth interested in agricultural and biological science through events such as science fairs.

- Participates in summer programs designed to provide high school and college students with an opportunity to take part in ongoing research projects.
- Furnishes "science aid" kits to schools to enable students to learn more about specific areas of science.
- Participates in Federal Government youth employment programs, permitting youths to do agriculturally-related research.
- Disseminates information on agricultural research advances and needs to capture the interest of youth and encourage their participation in this area.

How to Get Help

The Agricultural Research Service works in close cooperation with State and county agricultural agencies, many land-grant colleges and universities, agricultural producers, plant and animal breeders, agribusiness concerns and transporters.

- Call, write or visit the nearest ARS facility.
- Write to the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH SERVICE

CSRS works with all land-grant institutions located in each State, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and Tuskegee Institute. Through this cooperative research system, studies on major issues and alternatives in community development are carried out. Findings and recommendations based on this research are available to those who are interested in helping their communities.

Kinds of Help

- Provides data on:
 - people—characteristics, employment, mobility, values, patterns of living;
 - resource development—land, water, forests, other natural resources;
 - action alternatives for community planning bodies

and governmental units; production, marketing, distribution and consumption of agriculture and livestock products.

- Provides assistance to help people, their organizations and institutions through:
 - feasibility studies to understand and take action on social and economic issues;
 - studies on alternatives to conserve and protect the environment and reduce pollution;
 - studies to determine the availability and quality of community services and their delivery systems such as health care, education, recreation, water, waste disposal and fire protection.
- Provides opportunities for young people to become involved in research and research-related jobs.

How to Get Help

- Individuals, community and governmental leaders can contact a researcher directly or through county Extension staff.
- Contact the State Agricultural Experiment Station at the land-grant college in your State.
- Write the Cooperative State Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

The Economic Research Service can provide economic and social data which will help to solve development problems. Because of the great diversity of communities and conditions in America, State and local groups should pinpoint their specific informational needs. Once committees have identified the problems or the programs they wish to undertake, economic and social data can contribute to making better decisions on how to proceed.

Kinds of Help

- Provides data on:
 - population and migration trends: national, State, county and multicounty;
 - community institutions, services and facilities: housing, water and sewer systems, local government;
 - substate planning and development districts data:

current status of districts; economic and social development: employment, income, poverty; natural resource economics, recreation, environment, consumer affairs, domestic food and fiber industry: situation and outlook, international agricultural development and trade.

How to Get Help

- Request data needs through chairperson of State or local community development committee.
- Write Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.



EXTENSION SERVICE

Cooperative Extension educational programs in community development offer youth from all places, races and income levels an opportunity to develop as persons, share as

citizens and practice leadership. Youth are involved through 4-H, Extension's educational program for youth, and through other youth groups and organizations.

Kinds of Help

- Conducts educational programs to help youth see how the community development process works.
- Trains adults to be effective leaders and youth to become responsible community leaders of the future.
- Helps organize and conduct activities of youth who want to get directly involved with adults in community planning, development and decision-making.
- Furnishes organizational and counseling assistance to other agencies and youth-serving organizations about programs relating to community development.
- Disseminates program and technical information from State and Federal sources to help youth learn about and do community development work.
- Helps local groups evaluate progress toward locally identified community goals.

How to Get Help

The Extension Service is a three-way partnership. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the State land-grant university and the people in your

county share in planning and financing Extension work. Extension has a trained staff of youth and community development workers available to help with the involvement of youth in community development at the county, State or national level.

- Locally, call, write or visit your county Extension office. The county office will work with you to help you get the kind of assistance you need.
- State or regional youth organizational leaders should contact the State Extension Service.
- National youth-serving organizations have access to program resources of USDA.



FARMER COOPERATIVE SERVICE

This Washington-based agency coordinates its efforts with the American Institute of Cooperation, 40 State cooperative councils, cooperative business leaders, schools and universities, and directly and indirectly with national, State and local leaders of about 20 youth organizations.

Kinds of Help

- Supplies leader program guidelines to involve youth with their local community's business and professional leaders.
- Provides basic cooperative educational materials for use by leaders and youth involved in community programs.

How to Get Help

- Write, call or visit community marketing, purchasing and such service cooperatives as Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank Association, electric or telephone membership cooperative, credit union, cooperative or mutual insurance office, consumer cooperative or other cooperatives.
- Write Farmer Cooperative Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Working through more than 1,750 county and 42 State offices, FHA is the rural credit service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Kinds of Help

—Sponsors Build Our Ameri-

can Communities (BOAC), an education-action program, to help young people become knowledgeable community leaders and better understand the interrelationship between local, state, national and world issues.

- Provides technical assistance to youth groups to enable communities to obtain needed services and facilities.
- Provides loans to rural youth to permit them to operate enterprises in connection with their participation in youth organizations.
- Finances individual projects of minors by making loans to parents to purchase farms, operate farms, establish and/or operate small business enterprises.
- Provides informational materials on FHA objectives and programs.
- Meets with school classes or groups to discuss FHA programs and BOAC.

How to Get Help

- Call, write or visit the FHA supervisor serving your county.
- Contact the State Director or District Supervisor.
- Write the Information Division, FHA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Food assistance programs of the FNS help get food to people who are too poor, young, old or handicapped to provide fully for themselves.

Operated through Federal-State-local governments, the programs include:

- Donated foods or food stamps to low-income families.
- Breakfast and lunch in elementary and secondary public and private nonprofit schools.
- Meals to pre-school children in day-care centers and similar organized away-from-home activities.
- Meals to needy school-age children in summer recreation programs.

To do the job, these programs must be initiated locally: by public officials, volunteer citi-

zens, adult and youth organizations.

Kinds of Help

- Provides national and regional meetings with exhibits and informational materials, describing how members of organizations can both inform and help people in their communities benefit from food-help programs.
- Distributes volunteer handbooks and Student Information Kits giving background on food programs and suggested project ideas for young people.
- Provides teaching aids to assist with nutrition education activities in schools and pre-schools.
- Helps organize local "drive to serve" projects in which young drivers help transport donated food to elderly shut-ins.
- Encourages school officials to organize student advisory committees as a communications link between school food-service programs and the students they serve.
- Encourages through the Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator in state welfare agencies, youth organizations and other community groups to help low-income people get and use food stamps.

How to Get Help

Food help programs are jointly operated by Federal, State and local governments.

—In your community and State, contact the local or State director of school food services in the Department of Education concerning school lunch or breakfast programs or the local or State director of public welfare about food stamp or food donation programs.

—Regional and national groups may contact the nearest office of the Food and Nutrition Service. Regional offices are in Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, San Francisco and Princeton, New Jersey. National headquarters is U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



FOREST SERVICE

The Forest Service joins with youth in community development, especially to increase the employability of all youth and increase their knowledge of conservation.

Kinds of Help

- Administers the Woodsy Owl Environmental Campaign, a national antipollution program designed especially for young people.
- Provides summer employment to work in and learn about the natural environment for youth 15 through 18 through the Youth Conservation Corps.
- Operates 20 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers which provide education, vocational training and social living skills to disadvantaged young men, 16 through 21.
- Manages several Neighborhood Youth Corps pro-

grams, providing work and training for poor, unemployed or underemployed youths, 14 through 21.

- Provides technical assistance to States who sponsor conservation work programs for youth on non-federal public forest land.
- Supervises students in the College-Work Study program, providing a meaningful work experience.
- Provides summer youth employment usually on National Forests.
- Sponsors Volunteers in the National Forests.
- Involves youth directly in the improvement of National Forests through a wide range of cooperative programs.

How to Get Help

- Contact your State Forester or nearest National Forest Service Office.
- Write the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

The National Agricultural Library makes available scientific information to undergraduate and graduate students and researchers through traditional library services on site and through the Agricultural Sciences Information Network in cooperation with the land-grant colleges and universities in every State.

Kinds of Help

- Provides access to 1.5 million volumes on subjects supporting agricultural research to undergraduate and graduate students, researchers and teachers.
- Provides library services to undergraduate and graduate students, teachers and researchers.
- Provides youth with links to the nation's agricultural past and future through special orientation pro-

grams, library tours and films.

- Encourages interest of youth in library and information science careers through special orientation programs.
- Provides the young farmer with current agricultural information through cooperation with State extension services.

How to Get Help

- Agricultural Libraries of the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities in every State cooperate closely with the National Agricultural Library and will either supply desired services and information directly or draw upon the resources of NAL.
- Contact the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

Electric and telephone organizations financed by REA have a long history of supporting and participating in youth programs conducted by such organizations as 4-H, Future Farmers, Future Homemakers, Future Teachers, Scouting and others. They also work with educational and other institutions that serve youth.

Kinds of Help

- Provide meeting places for youth organizations.
- Provide equipment and personnel to assist with youth projects.
- Provide space in newsletters to report youth activities.
- Participate in scholarship programs.
- Develop information and training programs associated with electricity and communications.

- Sponsor summer work programs for high school and college students.
- Provide opportunities through local cooperatives to discuss issues concerning the cooperative and the community.
- Provide opportunities for youth participation through membership on Junior Boards of Cooperatives.
- Sponsor annual essay contests, awarding all-expense tours to Washington, D.C., for rural high school juniors.

How to Get Help

- Contact the local rural electric or telephone organization that serves your area.
- Write Rural Electrification Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Soil Conservation Service assistance is provided through conservation districts and includes technical help in applying conservation practices for environmental protection and natural resource management. SCS can also help youth in learning activities, such as community conservation surveys, development of places to study natural resources and their relationships and workshops on understanding resource problems and alternatives for their solution.

Kinds of Help

- Develops conservation plans for youth camps and other properties, including technical and other assistance for establishment and maintenance of needed conservation practices.
- Counsels on selection of useful environmental im-

- provement projects.
- Provides technical assistance and information to carry out environmental projects.
- Provides planning and technical assistance for creation and improvement of places to learn about the natural environment.
- Furnishes planning, technical and certain financial assistance for developing community outdoor recreation facilities as part of authorized resource development projects.
- Provides opportunities for summer employment and for work-related, career-oriented conservation positions.
- Prepares natural resource and community improvement materials for distribution through a youth organization's own channels.
- Publishes information on natural resource conservation and development.
- Assists with workshops on natural resource use and conservation for youth group leaders and teachers.
- Provides opportunities for youth volunteer service as members of conservation district youth boards.

How to Get Help

The Soil Conservation Service is a technical action agency and has professional conser-

vationists stationed in nearly every county in the nation.

- To obtain help at the local level, contact the local SCS or conservation district office.
- National youth-serving organizations, write Information Division, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

rural development



RURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE